IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 7 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A wavelength dispersion compensation system, comprising:

an optical transmitting end station wavelength-multiplexing optical signals, and outputting a wavelength-multiplexed signal to a transmission line;

a plurality of first optical repeater nodes arranged on the transmission line; and

at least one second optical repeater node, which is arranged among said plurality of first repeater nodes arranged on the transmission line, wherein

each of said plurality of first optical repeater nodes compensates for dispersion whose value is larger than a value of dispersion which occurs between said optical transmitting end station or an adjacent first optical repeater node or an adjacent second optical repeater node and the first optical repeater node itself, with an amount of residual dispersion that is set to a value obtained by multiplying a predetermined negative dispersion value by a transmission distance from the transmitting end station to each of said first optical repeater nodes, respectively,

said second optical repeater node compensates for dispersion so that residual dispersion occurs for a value obtained by subtracting a value of dispersion, which is compensated by a first optical repeater node between said optical transmitting end station or a second optical repeater node at a preceding stage and said second optical repeater node itself, from a value of dispersion in a transmission line, which occurs between said optical transmitting end station or the second optical repeater node at the preceding stage and said second optical repeater node itself, with an amount of residual dispersion that is set to a value obtained by multiplying a predetermined positive dispersion value by a transmission distance from the transmitting end station to said second optical repeater node,

the system ~~transmits~~is configured to transmit both an optical signal whose bit rate per wavelength is 10 Gbps and an optical signal whose bit rate per wavelength is 40 Gbps, ~~and~~

at least one of the transmitting end station and the second optical repeater node sends

40 Gbps optical signals ~~are sent~~ only between the transmitting end station and the second optical repeater node, between adjacent second optical repeater nodes, or between the second optical repeater node and a receiving end station, and

an amount of residual dispersion at the second optical repeater node is smaller than an amount of residual dispersion at each of the plurality of first optical repeater nodes.

2. (Original) The wavelength dispersion compensation system according to claim 1, wherein

said second optical repeater node is a node which adds/drops an optical signal.

3. (Original) The wavelength dispersion compensation system according to claim 1, wherein

said second optical repeater node is a compensation node compensating for a gain deviation and a compensation error of a wavelength dispersion slope, which accumulate as a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal propagates the system.

4. (Original) The wavelength dispersion compensation system according to claim 1, wherein

said second repeater node is a node switching a path of an optical signal for each arbitrary wavelength.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A wavelength dispersion compensation method, which is performed in an optical transmission system including an optical transmitting end station wavelength-multiplexing optical signals and outputting a wavelength-multiplexed signal to a transmission line, a plurality of first optical repeater nodes arranged on the transmission line, and at least one second optical repeater node, which is arranged among the plurality of first repeater nodes arranged on the transmission line, comprising:

compensating for dispersion whose value is larger than a value of dispersion which occurs between the optical transmitting end station or an adjacent first optical repeater node or an adjacent second optical repeater node and the first optical repeater node itself, by each of

the plurality of first optical repeater nodes, with an amount of residual dispersion that is set to a value obtained by multiplying a predetermined negative dispersion value by a transmission distance from the transmitting end station to each of said first optical repeater nodes, respectively; ~~and~~

compensating for dispersion so that residual dispersion occurs for a value obtained by subtracting a value of dispersion, which is compensated by a first optical repeater node between the optical transmitting end station or a second optical repeater node at a preceding stage and the second optical repeater node itself, from a value of dispersion in a transmission line, which occurs between the optical transmitting end station or the second optical repeater node at the preceding stage and the second optical repeater node itself, by the second optical repeater node, with an amount of residual dispersion that is set to a value obtained by multiplying a predetermined positive dispersion value by a transmission distance from the transmitting end station to said second optical repeater node~~, wherein~~;

~~the system transmits~~transmitting both an optical signal whose bit rate per wavelength is 10 Gbps and an optical signal whose bit rate per wavelength is 40 Gbps~~,~~; and

sending 40 Gbps optical signals ~~are sent~~ only between the transmitting end station and the second optical repeater node, between adjacent second optical repeater nodes, or between the second optical repeater node and a receiving end station, wherein

an amount of residual dispersion at the second optical repeater node is smaller than an amount of residual dispersion at each of the plurality of first optical repeater nodes.

8. (Original) The wavelength dispersion compensation method according to claim 7, wherein

the second optical repeater node is a node which adds/drops an optical signal.

9. (Original) The wavelength dispersion compensation method according to claim 7, wherein

the second optical repeater node is a compensation node compensating for a gain deviation and a compensation error of a wavelength dispersion slope, which accumulate as a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal propagates the system.

10. (Original) The wavelength dispersion compensation method according to claim 7, wherein

the second repeater node is a node switching a path of an optical signal for each

arbitrary wavelength.

11-17. (Cancelled)